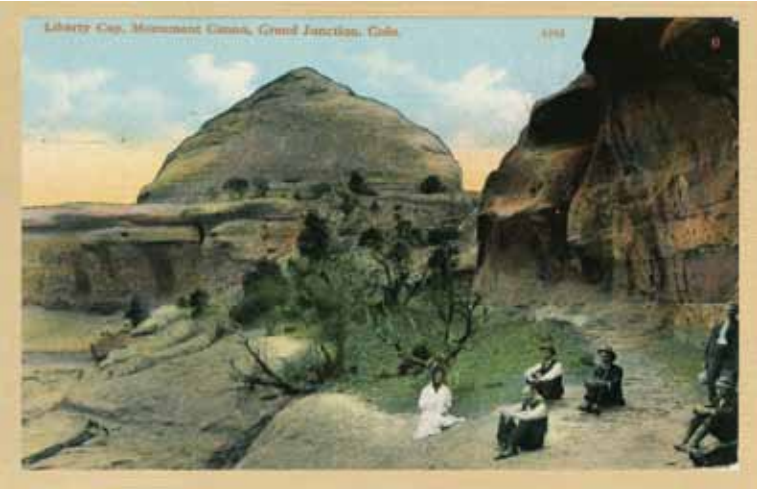
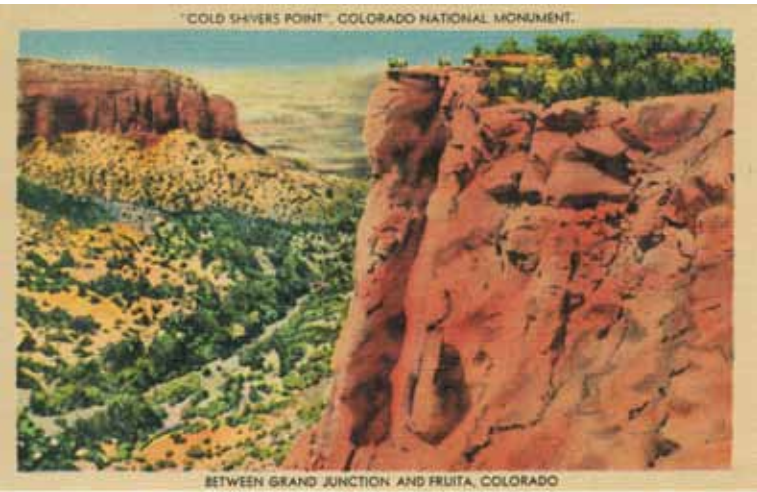




Visitor Guide



1911 - 2011 • Colorado National Monument Prepares to Celebrate 100 Years



Visitors through the decades...

“There is nothing little about Colorado National Monument. I am sure we will get it to the front someday and all the people of the country will be talking about it, and the travelers of the world will want to come to see it, and none of them will be disappointed.” – John Otto 1911, first park custodian

In the age of John Muir, some 1000 miles from Yosemite Valley, a kindred spirit and fervent conservationist, John Otto, was dedicating himself to protecting and promoting the land that today we know as Colorado National Monument.

Otto built the first trails into this rugged landscape to reach the glorious red rock canyons. He climbed the steeply tall monoliths to post the American Flag from the highest vantage points he could reach. He surveyed the first road, Trail of the Serpent—four miles with 52 switchbacks and once called “the crookedest road in the world.”

Otto worked tirelessly with the communities of Grand Junction and Fruita advocating for the creation of a national park to protect the extraordinary geology of ancient canyons and towering monoliths. Ultimately, Colorado National Monument was established by a presidential proclamation on May 24, 1911, by President Taft, under authority of the Antiquities Act.

Colorado National Monument has begun the countdown to our 100th anniversary. The Monument’s Centennial will be commemorated and celebrated throughout 2011, with a wide range of public events, special exhibits, seminars, community contests, and other Centennial related activities.

Calendar of Events:

2010.	
December 10-11	Holiday Open House 9:00-4:00
December 31	Centennial Kick-Off Extravaganza - Details coming soon!
2011.	
April 17-23	National Park Week and National Junior Ranger Events
April 30	Serpent’s Trail - Centennial Challenge Hike
May 22	Centennial Concert - Devils Kitchen Picnic Area
May 24	100th Anniversary Ceremony - Visitor Center
June	Centennial Cycling Tour
July 4	Independence Monument Climb and Flag Raising
August 28	Centennial Tour of the Valley Community Cycling Tour
August	Walk Thru Time - Rim Rock Drive
September 23	Monumental Classic Car Tour Across Rim Rock Drive
September 24	National Public Lands Day
November 12	Centennial Rim Rock Marathon
December	Holiday Open House

*Additional exhibits, lecture series, community contests, and other Centennial related activities to be announced.

For more current information visit our website:
www.nps.gov/colm/planyourvisit/2011-centennial.htm



What's inside

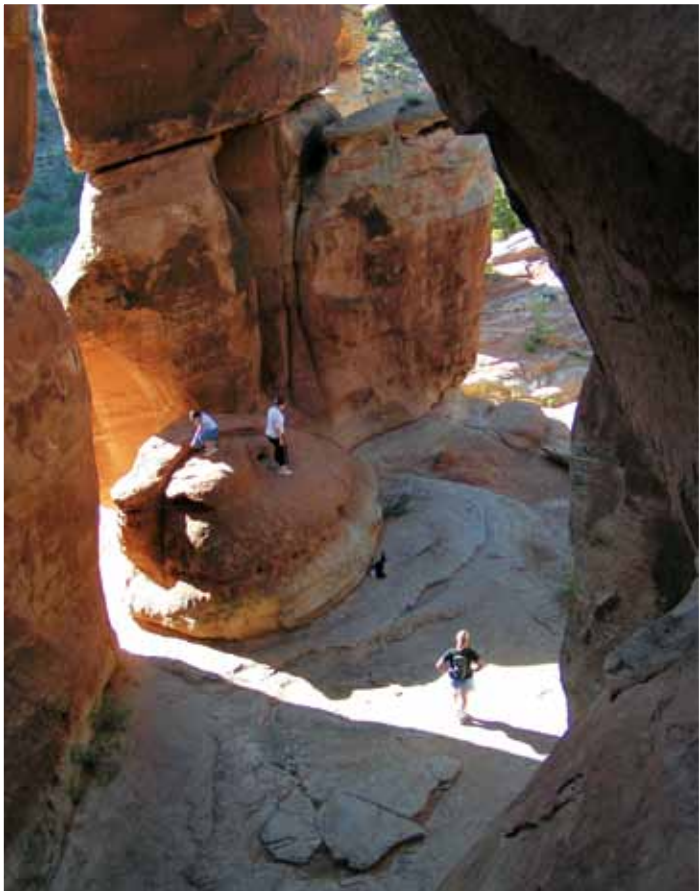


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Welcome! Plan Your Visit...



Monument Canyon



Devils Kitchen above, Coke Ovens overlook below



For current info and event
schedules:
www.nps.gov/colm

Visitor Center

For information, orientation, maps, books, and free handouts, the visitor center is a good place to start your adventure.

From there, you can explore the exhibit room, access three trailheads, and enjoy scenic views. Don't miss the 12 minute geology and introductory videos — both shown upon request.

The Colorado National Monument Association store sells a variety of educational and interpretive items as well as monument-related gifts such as T-shirts and hats. The visitor center is open every day, except December 25, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the winter and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the summer. Set aside 45 minutes for this stop.

Picnicking

There are three picnic areas: (1) adjacent to the visitor center, (2) near Saddlehorn Campground, and (3) at the Devils Kitchen Picnic Area. All have tables, water, and restrooms. The Devils Kitchen and the visitor center picnic areas have shade shelters.

Camping

Saddlehorn Campground, located near the visitor center, has 80 first come, first served sites. Open year round.

- The self-registration kiosk is located at the campground entrance.
- The camping fee is in addition to the monument entrance fee; the fee is \$10.00 per night with two cars, three tents, and a seven person per site limit.
- Recreational vehicles have a length limit of 40 feet.
- Restrooms have flush toilets and potable water.
- Sites include a picnic table and charcoal-only grill.

- No electric hookups, showers, or wood campfires.
- Two accessible sites are available.

Ranger Programs

Guided walks and porch talks are offered daily during the summer. Topics include geology, wildlife, ecology, and history. Program schedules are posted at the visitor center, the campground, and on the website: www.nps.gov/colm

Accessibility



- Accessible picnic areas:
The visitor center and Devils Kitchen picnic areas
- Accessible restrooms:
The visitor center, Saddlehorn Campground, and Devils Kitchen Picnic Area.
- Accessible overlooks:
Independence Monument View, Cold Shivers Point.

Additional information is on the website:
www.nps.gov/colm

Pets

Pets are allowed only in parking lots or in the campground. They must be on a leash at all times. Pets are not permitted on trails or in the visitor center. Ask us for a map of pet-friendly areas. Warning! Do not leave pets in vehicles during hot summer temperatures.

Backcountry Camping

A backcountry permit is required. Obtain the free permit at the visitor center. NO water exists in the backcountry! Potable water is available at the visitor center.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located at the visitor center, campground, Saddlehorn Picnic Area and Devils Canyon Picnic Area.

Hiking Safety Tips



Colorado National Monument contains rugged and remote landscapes:

- Always be prepared by carrying a map, compass, extra water, food, first aid kit, and extra clothing.
- Be sure you tell someone where you're going and when you expect to return.
- Cell phone service is not reliable.

- Watch your step and your children at overlooks, along canyon rims, and by steep drop-offs.
- Carry a sufficient amount of water for this hot desert climate. Use sunscreen. Wear sturdy footwear and a hat.
- Biting gnats can be a problem from May to August. Bring insect repellent.
- Watch where you put your feet and hands. You share the land with rattlesnakes and scorpions.
- From April through July, seasonal pools may exist in the canyon bottoms. Please do not enter these pools. Sunscreens and lotions pollute these ephemeral waters that are important to wildlife.
- Avoid ridge tops and open ground during lightning storms.

Colorado National Monument **Visitor Guide** is published by the Colorado National Monument Association and the City of Fruita.

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Contributors: Stephanie Duckett, Bill Hood, Deb Kennard, NPS and CNMA staff
Designer: Amy Nuernberg

The CNMA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that uses proceeds from its store to support interpretive and educational programs at the Colorado National Monument. PH 970-858-3617, ext. 360; www.coloradonma.org

Printed on recycled paper with vegetable-based inks.



Become a Junior Ranger!



Hey kids! Head up to the visitor center and ask for a free Junior Ranger activity booklet. How about a hike to explore the incredible red rock canyons and monoliths or to learn about our amazing animals, plants, and rocks? There are three wonderful hikes right outside the visitor center, and the Junior Ranger activity booklet has plenty of great ways to investigate this beautiful red rock country.

While at the visitor center, you can borrow the Junior Ranger explorer backpack (available for four-hour loans). The pack is full of tools like binoculars, magnifying glasses, and field guides to help sharpen your observation skills. It's a great kit to use on your hike as you work toward earning your Junior Ranger badge.

The Junior Ranger program is designed for children ages 5 to 12, but any age can become a Junior Ranger! Once you've completed the booklet, take it to the visitor center to receive your official Junior Ranger badge and certificate.

What Can Kids Do Here?

- ★ Explore with the Junior Ranger backpack.
- ★ Look a desert bighorn sheep in the eye.
- ★ Look for animal tracks or scat.
- ★ Spot a lizard doing push-ups.
- ★ Take your parents camping.
- ★ Attend a ranger program.
- ★ Become a Junior Ranger.
- ★ Ask a ranger a question.
- ★ Watch a video.
- ★ Take a hike.

You and your family can borrow this Official Junior Ranger backpack at the visitor center and start your exploration! Available for a four-hour loan, and it's free!



①



③



④

②



- ① Hiking in Monument Canyon
- ② Identifying lizards
- ③ "Birds" in flight
- ④ Junior Rangers learning about raptors



Bicycle Safety

- Bicycles are permitted ONLY on Rim Rock Drive and in Saddlehorn Campground.
- Bicycles are prohibited on trails.
- Bicyclists are required to obey all traffic laws including speed limits, passing zones, and stop signs.
- Ride single file at all times.
- Do not pass vehicles in the tunnels.
- Lights required for tunnels: Bicycles (or cyclists) are required to be equipped with a white light that is visible at least 500 feet from the front and a red light that can be seen at least 200 feet from the rear.
- Caution! East side cyclists may encounter large trucks for the first four miles.

Rocky Road Ahead

- Rim Rock Drive is built through areas of unstable geologic rock formations. As a result, rocks and boulders may break loose and fall onto the road, posing a hazard to people and vehicles. Use the following guidelines for your safety:
- Pay close attention to the slopes above you and to all traffic signs.
 - Be on the lookout for rocks in the road.
 - Do not attempt to move rocks or boulders. If rocks block the road, call a park ranger at 970-858-3617 x360.



Ranger Picks

Rim Rock Drive - Spectacular Vistas








One of the grandest scenic drives in the American West, the 23-mile Rim Rock Drive offers redrock canyons, crisp blue skies, and green junipers for motorists and bicyclists to enjoy.

This road is inseparable from the identity of the monument. The drive provides access to Saddlehorn Visitor Center and campground, 19 signed overlooks, and 14 hiking trails. **Allow at least one hour driving time, plus additional time for walking, photography, or stopping at pullouts.**

Please use caution as you drive the road and watch for wildlife, fallen rocks, and other hazards. Obey posted speed limits and be careful on the narrow shoulders. Watch for bicyclists. “Share the road.”

For a more in-depth introduction to the amazing scenery along the park road, please stop by the visitor center where *A Guide to the Rim Rock Drive* can be purchased from the bookstore.



OVERLOOK DESCRIPTION	MILES FROM EAST GATE	MILES FROM WEST GATE
1. Cold Shivers Point: an accessible paved path leads to an impressive view into Columbus Canyon 	3.4	19.1
2. Artist Point: offers views of the Coke Ovens and other rock formations from the parking area or a short trail to a fenced overlook 	13.7	8.7
3. Grand View: short trail leads to an impressive view of Independence Monument, a spectacular free standing rock formation. History enthusiasts may be interested in the nearby Half Tunnel exhibit 	16.4	6
4. Independence Monument View: an accessible viewpoint of Independence Monument from a dramatic angle 	16.9	5.5
5. Balanced Rock View: a great place to photograph a rock balancing in mid-air 	21	1.6



Bicycling - Two Options

Rim Rock Drive offers sweeping vistas, plenty of fresh air, and varied grades. It has challenged many of the world’s strongest riders, but yields to the most casual of recreational bicyclists.

Visitor Center to Artist’s Point

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate
Distance: 8.6 miles (round trip)
Elevation gain: minimal, less than 500 feet
Turn left (south) from the visitor center parking lot onto Rim Rock Drive. Travel along the rim of Monument Canyon for 4.3 miles to Artist’s Point. The ride offers incredible views of some of the park’s most dramatic rock formations.



Bicycling along Rim Rock Drive

The Grand Loop

Difficulty: Difficult
Distance: 40 miles
Elevation gain: 1,950 feet
Park outside the west (Fruita) entrance to the park and ascend 1,000 feet over four miles of switchbacks. Continue along the top of Rim Rock Drive for 19 miles before descending switchbacks to the east (Grand Junction) entrance to the park. Once outside the entrance station, continue 3.5 miles to the end of Monument Road. Take a left at the stoplight onto Broadway (Highway 340); it’s 13.5 miles back to the west gate.

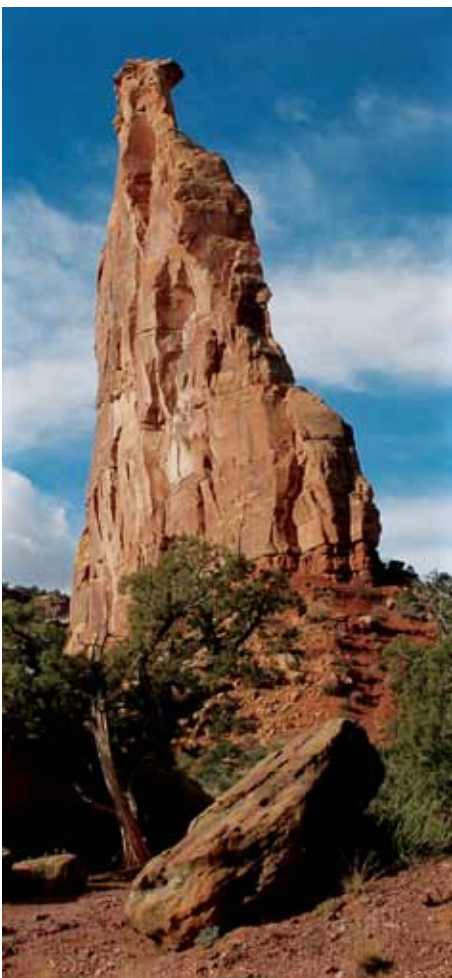


Hiking Favorites

Monument Canyon Trail

Difficulty: Moderate
Distance: A one-way hike of 6 miles
Elevation: 6,140 to 4,700 feet
Upper Trailhead: From the visitor center, turn left onto Rim Rock Drive and proceed 3.8 miles to the trailhead on the left.
Lower Trailhead: From the west entrance, proceed east on Colorado Highway 340. After 2.1 miles turn right just beyond mile marker #5 onto a dirt road that appears to be a driveway. Continue straight 0.1 mile to the parking lot.

Monument Canyon offers a scenic and memorable day hike though a geological wonderland full of colorful, sheer-walled canyons and towering rock formations, including Independence Monument. Carved over millions of years from a solid wall that separated Monument and Wedding Canyons, Independence Monument is now the largest free-standing rock formation in the park, rising 450 feet from the canyon floor. Great opportunities for photography and wildlife viewing will reward you on this hike in the heart of red rock country.



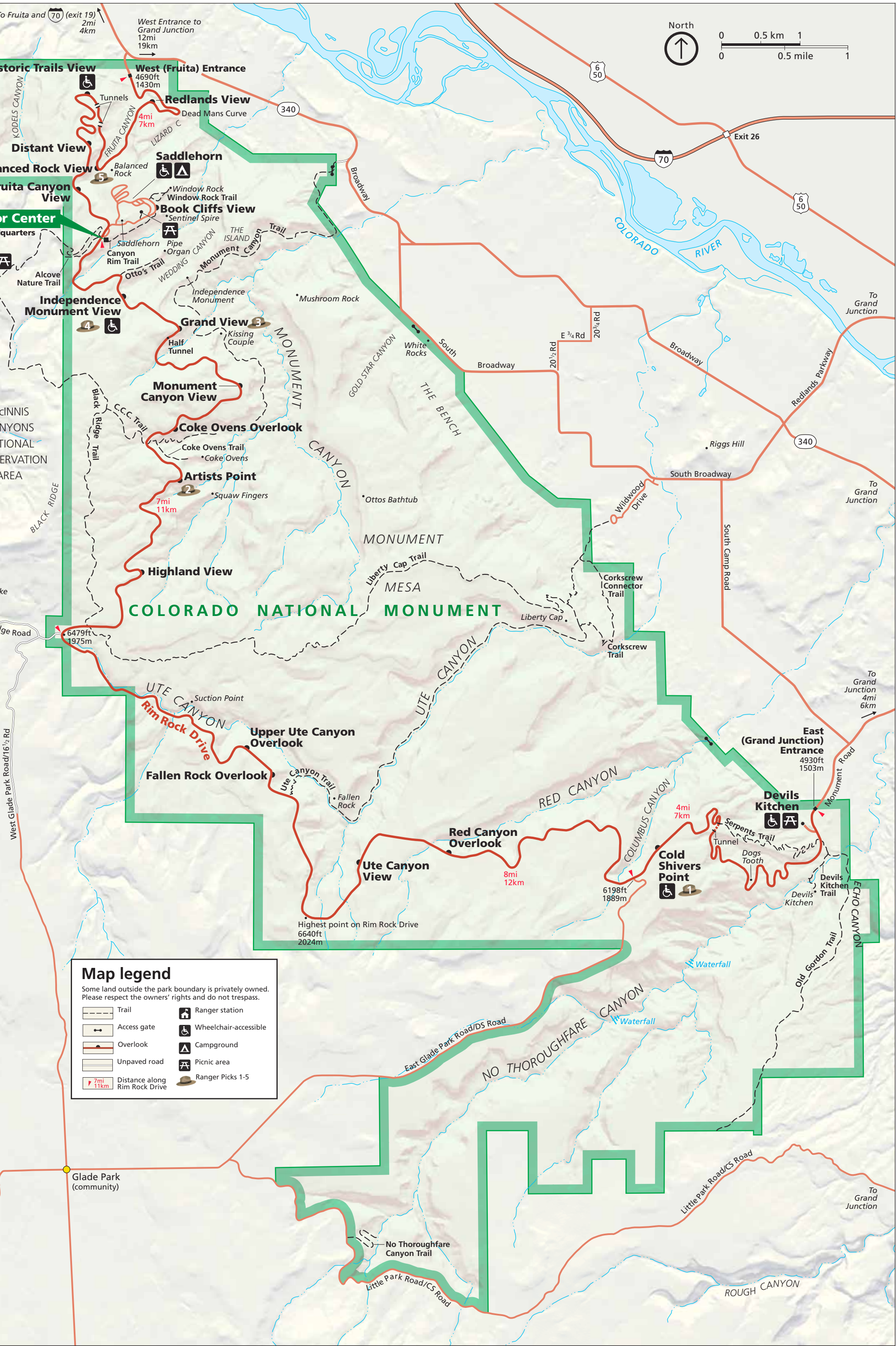
Hike around Independence Monument

Otto’s Trail

Difficulty: Easy
Distance: A one-way hike of 0.5 miles to the overlook
Trailhead: From the visitor center, turn left on Rim Rock Drive and proceed 1.0 mile to the trailhead parking on the left.
For a short stroll with dramatic views of the monument’s famous monoliths

– Pipe Organ, Kissing Couple, and Independence Monument – hike Otto’s Trail.
The trail travels through pinyon-juniper woodlands to an overlook with breathtaking vistas of Wedding and Monument Canyons. In spring and summer, a variety of flowers and blooming cacti can be enjoyed along the trail.





Map legend

Some land outside the park boundary is privately owned. Please respect the owners' rights and do not trespass.

	Trail		Ranger station
	Access gate		Wheelchair-accessible
	Overlook		Campground
	Unpaved road		Picnic area
	Distance along Rim Rock Drive		Ranger Picks 1-5





American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – Funds Local Trail Improvements

In 2009, the President signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which includes \$3 billion for Department of the Interior programs. ARRA presents an unprecedented opportunity to invest in America’s timeless treasures, while helping working families and their communities to prosper again. Colorado National Monument will receive over \$230,000 for trail improvements during 2009-2010.

More than 160,000 people hike the monument’s trails each year! New seasonal trail workers have been employed to perform preventative maintenance and rebuild sections of existing trails for your safety and enjoyment.

Colorado National Monument’s history includes the enduring work of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) whose workers built the park’s famous Rim Rock Drive and several trails and buildings as part of the 1930s “New Deal.”

The monument applied for ARRA funding in the spirit of CCC era projects to encourage a new generation of conservation workers.



YOUR FEE DOLLARS AT WORK

The National Park Service's Fee Demonstration Program has provided funds for new exhibits in the Saddlehorn Visitor Center. The exhibits will be ready in 2011 for the park’s Centennial celebration.

Additional fee money will fund:

- 21 wayside panels along Rim Rock Drive
- the restoration of C-Loop campground restroom
- 10 trailhead orientation panels

Congress established the Fee Program in 1997 to assist parks to fund local projects that improve visitor facilities and better protect park resources.

User Fee

Improves this park



Building a Legacy at Colorado National Monument

Economic stimulus packages are nothing new. Shortly after President Franklin Roosevelt took office in March 1933, in the midst of the Great Depression, he introduced a huge New Deal stimulus package intended to jumpstart the stalled economy and put millions of unemployed Americans back to work. The creation of the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC), with its plan to put the nation’s youth to work, was part of that package.

The CCC operated for nine years, from 1933 to 1942, when three and a half million young men lived and worked in about 4500 different camps all across the United States. The men came from all over the country and were often sent to locations far from their homes to perform mainly manual work.

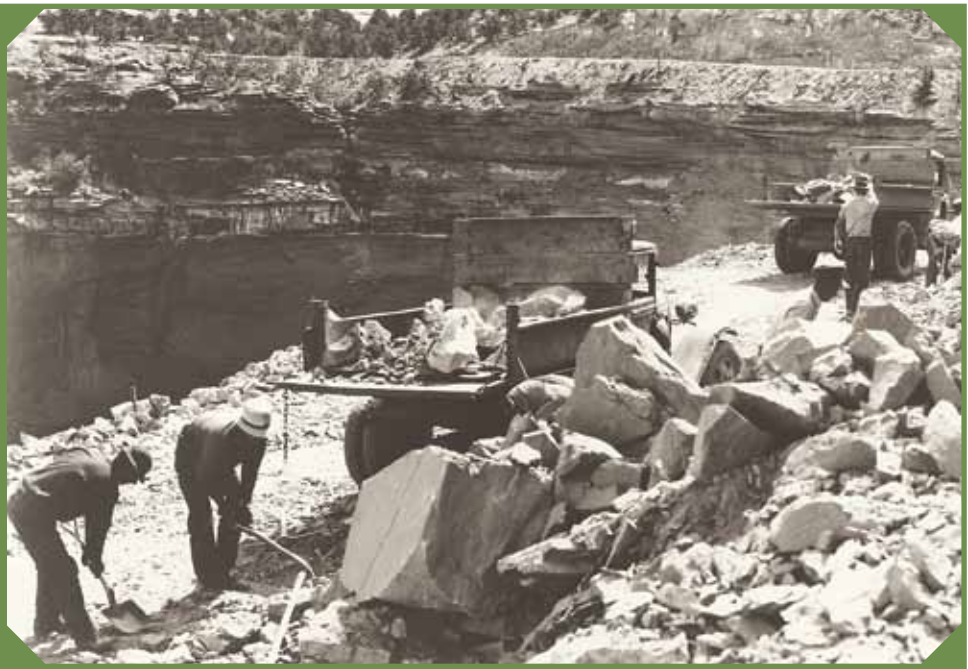
Throughout the nation, the CCC men planted an estimated four billion trees; built roads, bridges, and buildings; constructed campgrounds and hiking trails; strung 89,000 miles of telephone wire; fought fires; established state parks; and stocked fish. On the Colorado Plateau, the CCC primarily worked for government agencies, including the National Park Service and the United States Forest Service, agencies whose budgets had been slashed but still had many improvements that needed to be carried out.

There were several CCC camps in Western Colorado, including four at Colorado National Monument. With the help and guidance of a group of local experienced men known as LEMs, the CCC built Rim Rock Drive through the monument, installed fencing, and constructed several buildings, including the Park Custodian’s Residence, more commonly known today as the Stone House.

Other entities involved in the road building project included the Works Project Administration (WPA) and the Public Works Administration (PWA). The

roadbuilding project at Colorado National Monument transformed tourism in the local area. Before 1937 only a few hundred people visited the monument each year. In 1937, after 20 miles of the road and two tunnels were completed, visitation shot up to 20,000.

The CCC workers at Colorado National Monument were grateful to be employed and to help support their families. They were fed, clothed, and sheltered; they learned job skills; and they gained confidence. As they surveyed their accomplishments — the road and tunnels they built and the buildings they constructed — they felt pride in their achievements. This sense of



accomplishment resonated in their written memoirs and the stories that were recorded decades after the men left the monument.

It was this enduring pride that would inspire them to bring their children and grandchildren to the Colorado National Monument years later to boast, “I worked here; I helped build that.” The Rim Rock Drive and the structures the men built are their legacy and their gift to the untold thousands of visitors who have traveled in their wake to Colorado National Monument.

Watchable Wildlife: Desert Bighorn Sheep

Once in danger of becoming extinct, the desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis Canadensis*) have made a comeback in parts of western Colorado. A small population was reintroduced to Colorado National Monument in 1979. While more than 230 sheep have been sighted and monitored across the public lands of the Grand Valley, about 40 bighorn thrive in and around Colorado National Monument.

Unlike their Rocky Mountain cousins, desert bighorn have adapted to hot, dry climates and have longer legs, lighter coats, and smaller bodies. They can live

without water for days. Their diet of bluegrass, brome, fescue, clover phlox, and cinquefoil supplies a good portion of their water needs. *Ovis Canadensis* can maneuver steep red rock canyons bounded by high, flat ridges and use this terrain to evade predators.

Look for rams and ewes along ledges at the base of canyon walls and above steep talus slopes (1) along Rim Rock Drive in Fruita Canyon; (2) near the Balanced Rock view; (3) and behind the Saddlehorn Visitor Center at the



Bighorn ram in Monument Canyon

Wedding Canyon viewpoint; and (4) year-round in Kodels, Monument, and Wedding Canyons, which require hikes varying from 2 to 12 miles round-trip.



DON'T BUST THE CRUST!

Have you noticed the bumpy, knobby, and sometimes dark soil along the trails? That’s biological soil crust. Just as coral reefs are formed over time by many small organisms living together, soil crust is formed the same way. Moss, lichen, green algae, cyanobacteria (sigh-AN-oh bacteria), and microfungi all work together to hold sand grains in place and create an environment where seeds can grow.

Biological soil crust is extremely slow growing. A footprint can erase decades of growth. You can help protect the crust by staying on established trails.



Monument on the MOVE

Colorado National Monument preserves a spectacular landscape of red rocks, steep-walled canyons, towering monoliths, and a wide variety of plant and animal life. The basis for all of this magnificent scenery is the geology: the underlying rocks and the processes that formed, then deformed them, combined with the constant forces of water, freezing and thawing, and wind that continuously erode the rocks away.

The story of how the landscape of Colorado National Monument came into existence is at the same time both simple and complex. The simple side tells a story of extensive erosion over a long period of time. The complex side covers how events that occurred tens of millions of years ago set up the conditions that allowed the monument to be unique and distinct from the nearby landscapes of the Grand Valley and the Book Cliffs.

Erosion processes in the canyons can be described as “steady by jerks.” If you look at the streams in the bottoms of the canyons, most of the time they barely flow, much less move sediment downstream. Even in the spring when snowmelt causes streams to flow, you won’t see much evidence of sediment moving downstream. So how can these little streams carve the huge canyons?

Imagine this:

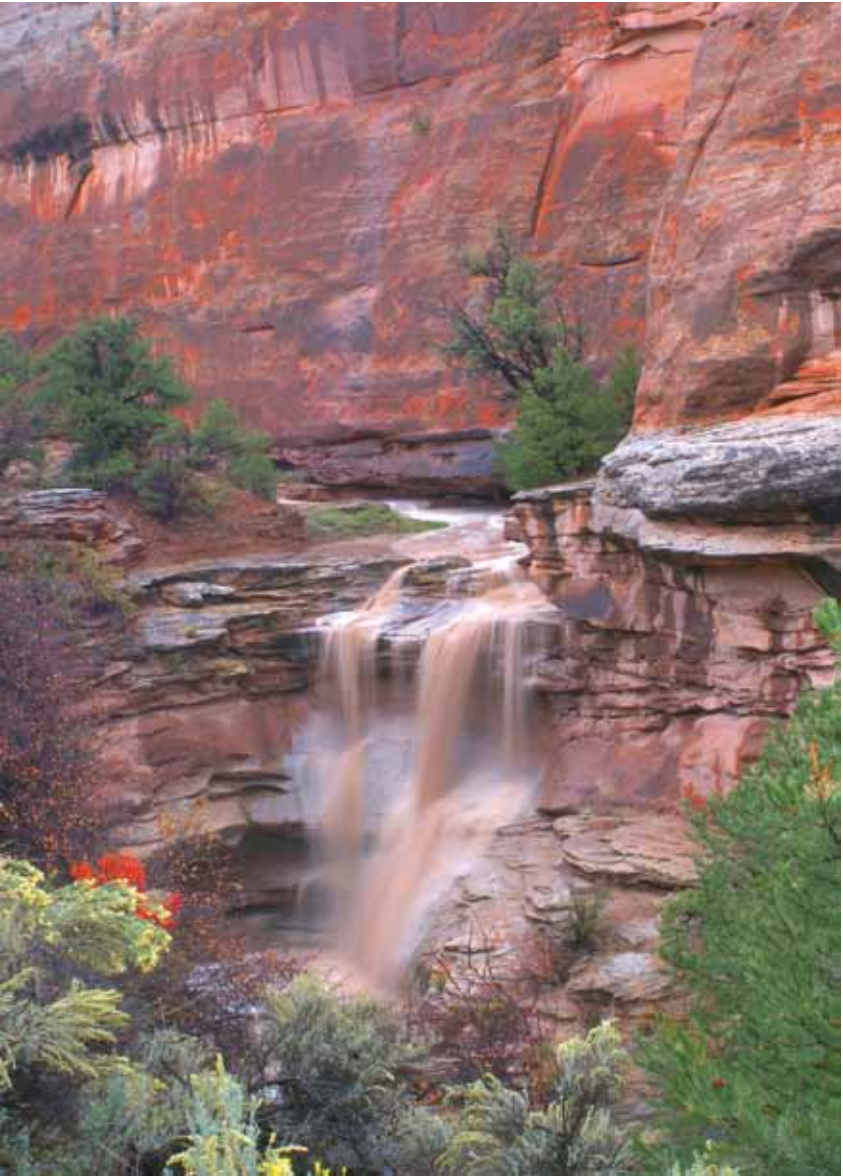
It’s summer. Uneven heating of the land surface causes towering thunderheads to build up. A massive storm develops, dumping two inches of water over a few square miles in an hour’s time. What happens to all of this water?

As the water level builds up, more and larger sediment is transported. Eventually all of the sediment on the stream bed may start moving, exposing the bedrock below. The result is like a

giant wet abrasion machine grinding away at the bed of the stream. Banks cave in, adding more sediment. Erosion and transportation are at work!

Eventually the storm passes or dies away. The influx of water slows and almost stops. Stream levels drop, and, as they do, the erosion process reverses and becomes the depositional process. With lower velocity comes reduced ability to move particles. Sediment starts to drop out and quit moving, large particles first and small ones later. Sediment builds up and again covers the bed of the stream. The storm is over. Preserved throughout the monument is evidence of such storms.

The forces of water and wind, freezing and thawing, acting over vast spans of time, built the spires, domes, and sheer canyon walls of Colorado National Monument. As the Colorado River relentlessly lowered the Grand Valley north of the monument, small tributary streams within the monument labored to keep pace as they cut through the thick sandstone layers. Thwarted by the tough black basement rocks of the canyon floors, they gradually widened the chasms to reveal the colorful red cliffs that we enjoy today. Remnants of the sandstone walls make up fascinating monoliths, such as the 450-foot high Independence Monument, Kissing Couple, and Coke Ovens.



Erosion at work, run-off scours a streambed after a big rainstorm.

What does the future hold for Colorado National Monument? As the mighty Colorado River continues to erode down through the soft sandstone, the difference in elevation between the Grand Valley and the monument will become more dramatic — leaving the spectacular hanging canyons of the monument perched even higher above the valley floor.

Ancient Trees Tell a Tale

How long has it been since Colorado National Monument burned? Small lightning-caused fires are relatively common. Summer thunderstorms spawn lightning that can spark a single tree on fire. Pinyon-pines and junipers have a lot of volatile compounds in their needles that make them burn relatively easy. Rarely do these fires turn into larger fires. Fires need what fire managers call fine fuels to spread: grasses, forbs, small twigs. And these fuels must flank the forest floor. As you may notice in the monument, very few grasses exist between trees.

What a fire needs to spread in pinyon-juniper woodlands is wind — strong wind. When strong winds are combined with lightning, they can push a fire from tree crown to tree crown. These wind-driven fires can burn huge areas, such as the recent fires in Mesa Verde National Park.

So how often do strong wind-driven fires occur in Colorado National Monument? Fire ecologists can answer this question by using dendrochronology. Dendrochronology (dendron = tree, chronos = time) is the study of tree rings. Tree rings are the layers of wood cells produced by trees every year. They form visible rings because thin-walled cells develop early in the growing season and thicker-walled cells are produced later in the growing season. From this study, tree-ring scientists (dendrochronologists) can learn the age of a tree, previous climate, the year a tree established, and the year it died.

What have we found out so far? One of the oldest juniper trees studied had more than 950 rings. The base of this tree had a diameter of about 25 inches. So trees older than 1,000 years could be out there. Junipers tend to be much longer-lived than pinyon pines. The oldest pinyon pine dated was around 325 years old. One reason pinyon pines don’t live as long is due to their susceptibility to pine beetles.



Above, cross section of Utah juniper tree more than 950 years old. Below, example of a living specimen.

Results show that the pinyon-juniper woodlands in the monument have not burned in a very long time. Preliminary data suggests that this area has not been burned by large fires in at least 400 years, and large areas have not burned in at least 800 years.

Another explanation for the long fire-free intervals can be attributed to a highly dissected landscape. The steep canyons and abundant slick rock create natural barriers to a moving fire. Fortunately, the monument has not experienced the severe fires that have affected large areas on the Colorado Plateau in recent years. Colorado National Monument may be one of the best examples of old-growth pinyon-juniper woodland remaining on the Colorado Plateau.



Area Info

Bureau of Land Management
2815 Horizon Drive
Grand Junction, CO 81506
(970) 244-3000 www.co.blm.gov

Colorado National Monument
Fruita, CO 81521
(970) 858-3617 www.nps.gov/colm

Colorado State Parks
361 32 Road Clifton, CO 81520
(970) 434-6862 www.parks.state.co.us

Colorado Welcome Center
340 Hwy 340 Fruita, CO 81521
(970) 858-9335
www.colorado.com/fruitawelcomecenter.aspx

Fruita Chamber of Commerce
432 East Aspen Avenue
Fruita, CO 81521 www.fruitachamber.org

Grand Junction Visitor & Convention Bureau
740 Horizon Drive
Grand Junction, CO 81506
800-962-2547 www.visitgrandjunction.com

US Forest Service
2777 Crossroads Blvd.
Grand Junction, CO 81506
(970) 242-8211 www.fs.fed.us/r2/gmug

Arches National Park:
113 miles www.nps.gov/arch

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park: 86.8 miles www.nps.gov/blca

Canyonlands National Park:
159 miles www.nps.gov/cany

Dinosaur National Monument:
147 miles www.nps.gov/dino

Weather & Climate

The wide variety of terrain, elevation, and precipitation patterns in Colorado National Monument results in a fairly diverse climate. With elevations ranging from 4,500 feet to over 7,000 feet, the monument's weather represents desert, semi-desert, and upland climates. Spring temperatures are generally mild with daytime highs in the mid-60s. During the summer months, temperatures range between the mid-80s and 90s and often reach 100 plus degrees in the inner canyons.

Winter temperatures are generally mild, from 20 to 45 degrees, with lows occasionally dropping to zero. Winter is a

Climate Information

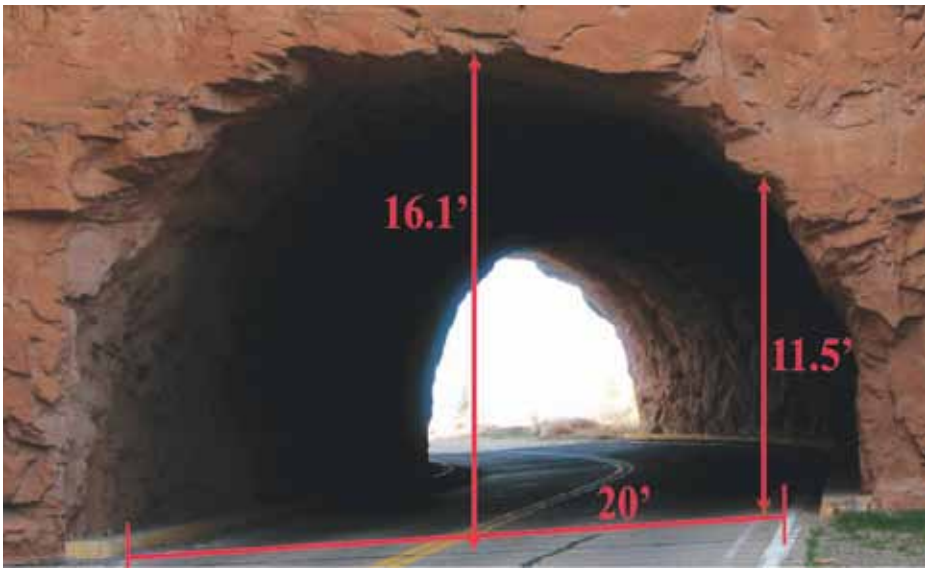
	Average High Temperature		Average Low Temperature		Average Precipitation	
	F	C	F	C	IN	CM
January	36.8	2.7	16.6	-8.6	0.6	1.5
February	45.8	7.7	23.6	-4.7	0.5	1.3
March	56.5	13.6	32.0	0	1.0	2.5
April	65.4	18.5	38.7	3.7	0.9	2.3
May	75.7	24.2	47.7	8.7	1.0	2.5
June	88.1	31.2	57.0	13.9	0.4	1.0
July	93.2	34	63.6	17.6	0.7	1.8
August	90.4	32.4	62.2	16.8	0.8	2.0
September	81.0	27.2	53.0	11.7	0.9	2.3
October	67.3	19.6	40.9	4.9	1.0	2.5
November	50.3	10.2	28.2	-2.1	0.7	1.8
December	39.1	10.2	18.9	-7.3	0.5	1.3

great time to experience inversion layers of fog when monoliths peek above the fog. Annual precipitation averages 11 inches. August –

October is usually the wettest period, but there is often a peak in March as well.

Tunnel Safety

Rim Rock Drive has three tunnels that were blasted and shaped in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). You will pass through two short, curved tunnels on the west side and one long, straight tunnel on the east side. It is your responsibility to know the height and length of your vehicle.



TUNNEL SAFETY

- All vehicles proceed with extreme caution.
- Lights required.
- Watch out for bicyclists.
- Do not pass bicyclists or vehicles.
- Be on guard for large vehicles and RVs.
- No pedestrians in or around the tunnels.

TUNNEL CLEARANCES

- **Lower west tunnel:** 16' 1" high at center line; 11' 5" - 2 ft. from curb; 236 ft. in length
- **Upper west tunnel:** 16' 1" high at center line; 11' 5" - 2 ft. from curb; 182 ft. in length
- **East tunnel:** 16' 2" high at center line; 11' 5" - 2 ft. from curb; 530 ft. in length



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